MONTANA

1986 MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING REGULATIONS

GENERAL REGULATIONS

Means of Taking: Migratory birds may be taken only with bow and arrow, shotgun not larger than ten gauge capable of holding no more than three shells fired from the shoulder. May not be taken from or by means, or aid of, or use of a sinkbox, aircraft or motor-driven conveyance of any kind, except a motorboat when the motor has been shut off and the boat has stopped. Use of any electronic or phonographic waterfowl-calling device is illegal.

Steel shot: It is unlawful for anyone to use or possess a shotgun shell or ammunition loaded with or containing other than steel shot, while hunting, taking or attempting to take waterfowl or coots in the following counties: Flathead, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Sanders, and Yellowstone. In addition, Red Rock Lake National Wildlife Refuge and Benton Lake National Wildlife Refuge also require the use of steel shot for waterfowl and all other bird hunting.

Possession of "other than steel shot" means in the gun, or in the pockets, or within reach while in the process of waterfowl hunting. Shot, other than steel, left in a vehicle, while parked in the waterfowl hunting area, would not be considered "in possession" for the purpose of hunting.

Restrictions: No person shall take migratory birds by driving, rallying, or chasing birds with any motorized conveyance or any sail boat to put them in range of the hunter; by the aid of baiting (placing feed such as corn, wheat, salt, or other feed to constitute a lure or enticement). Hunters should be aware that a baited area is considered to be baited for 10 days after the removal of the bait, and it is not necessary for the hunter to know an area is baited to be in violation.

Hunting Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset unless specified otherwise.

Leave Wing Attached: One fully feathered wing must remain attached to the carcass of each bird (except doves) in the field for identification and aging.

Wanton Waste: All migratory game birds shall be retrieved, if possible, and retained in custody of the hunter in the field.

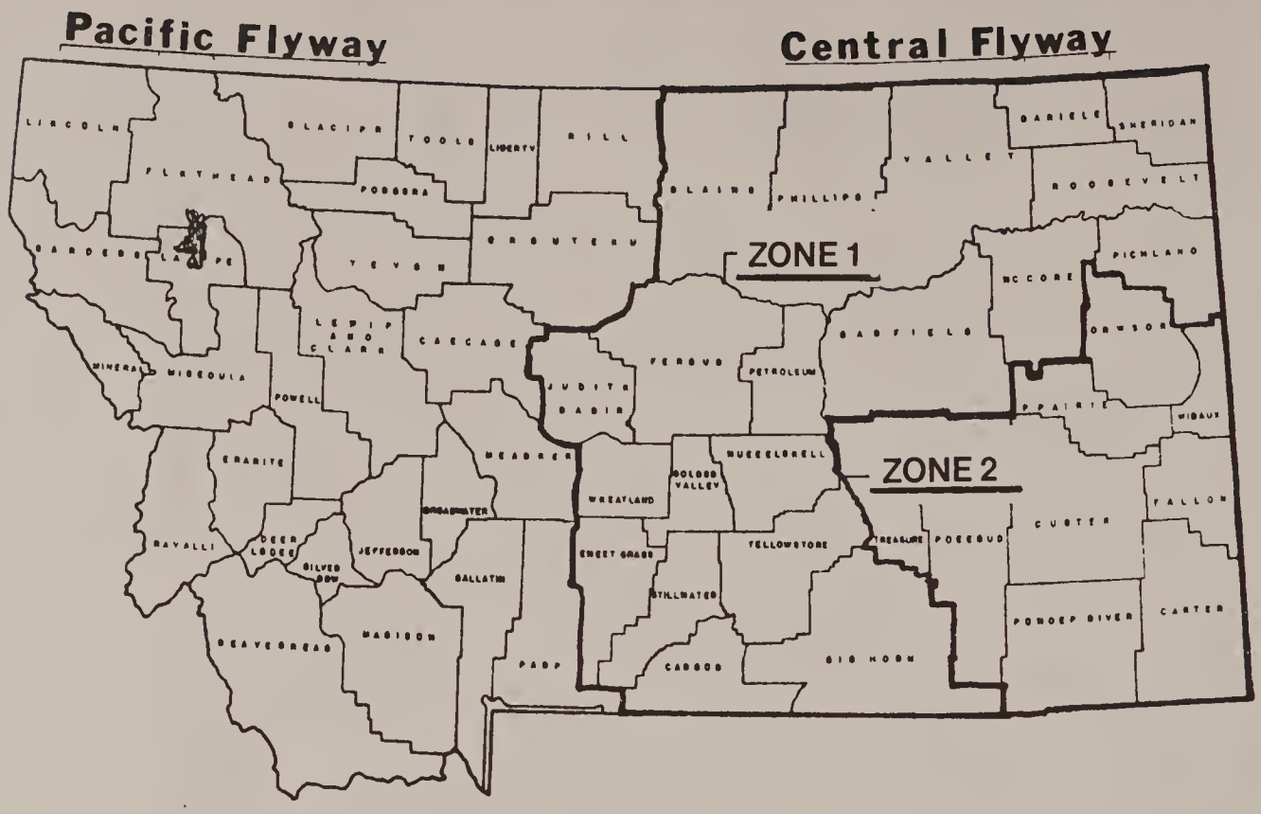
Game Parts Suitable for Food: All birds that fall into the size category of a teal duck or smaller, only the breasts must be retained.

All birds larger than a teal duck up to the size category of a mallard duck, the breasts and the thighs must be retained.

All birds larger than mallard ducks, the breasts, thighs and wings must be retained.

Field Possession Limit: No person shall possess more than one daily bag limit while in the field, or while returning from the field to one's car, hunting camp, home, etc.

Tagging: No person shall give, put or leave any migratory birds at any place or in the custody of another person unless the birds are tagged by the hunter with the following information: 1) The hunter's signature. 2) The hunter's address. 3) The total number of birds involved, by species. 4) The dates such birds were killed. Tagging is required if the birds are being transported by another person for the hunter, or if the birds have been left for cleaning, storage (including temporary storage), shipment, or taxidermy services.



CENTRAL FLYWAY — see closures

The Central Flyway includes Blaine, Fergus, Judith Basin, Wheatland, Sweet Grass, Stillwater and Carbon counties and all counties lying east of these.

• *DUCKS* •

Zone 1 — October 4, 1986 - November 23, 1986
December 13, 1986 - December 28, 1986

Bighorn, Blaine, Carbon, Daniels, Fergus, Garfield, Golden Valley, Judith Basin, McCone, Musselshell, Petroleum, Phillips, Richland, Roosevelt, Sheridan, Stillwater, Sweetgrass, Valley, Wheatland and Yellowstone.

Zone 2 — October 4, 1986 - October 12, 1986
November 1, 1986 - December 28, 1986

Carter, Custer, Dawson, Fallon, Powder River, Prairie, Rosebud, Treasure and Wibaux.

Bag Limits: The daily bag limit is reached when the point value of all ducks taken during the day reaches 100 points. A hunter may exceed 100 points on his last duck, provided his bag totaled less than 100 points before shooting the last duck. SEASON IS CLOSED ON CANVASBACKS.

The possession limit is the maximum number of ducks which may legally be taken in two days.

Green-Winged Teal	20	Ringneck Duck	35
Shoveler	20	Pintail	35
Gadwall	20	Drake Mallard	35
Blue-Winged Teal	20	Redhead	70
Cinnamon Teal	20	Wood Duck	70
Scaup	20	Hooded Merganser	70
Common & Red-Breasted Merganser	20	Hen Mallard	100
American Widgeon	20	All others not listed	35

• *COOTS* •

Bag Limit: Coots have a point value of 0, but the bag is limited to 15 daily and 30 in possession.

• *GEESE* •

Open Season: October 4, 1986 - January 4, 1987

Bag Limit: 3 daily and 6 in possession.

Exception: Sheridan County - 2 daily and 4 in possession.

• COMMON (WILSON'S) SNIPE •

Open Season: October 4, 1986 - December 21, 1986

Bag Limit: 8 daily and 16 in possession.

• TUNDRA (WHISTLING) SWAN •

Hunting in Teton or Cascade County by special swan permit only.

Open Season: October 4, 1986 - December 21, 1986. Swan hunters must have a watercraft, a dog capable of retrieving, or chest-high waders along while hunting the dikes at Freezout Lake, as a means of retrieving birds they have killed, wounded or crippled.

• MOURNING DOVE • STATEWIDE

Open Season: September 6, 1986 - October 12, 1986

Bag Limits: 15 daily and 30 in possession.

• FALCONRY SEASON •

CENTRAL FLYWAY — *Open Season:* One-half hour before sunrise to sunset October 4, 1986 - January 18, 1987.

PACIFIC FLYWAY — *Open Season:* One-half hour before sunrise to sunset October 4, 1986 - January 11, 1987.

Bag Limit: For all permitted migratory birds, the bag limit is 2 daily and 6 in possession, singly or in the aggregate, during both the regular hunting season and extended falconry season.

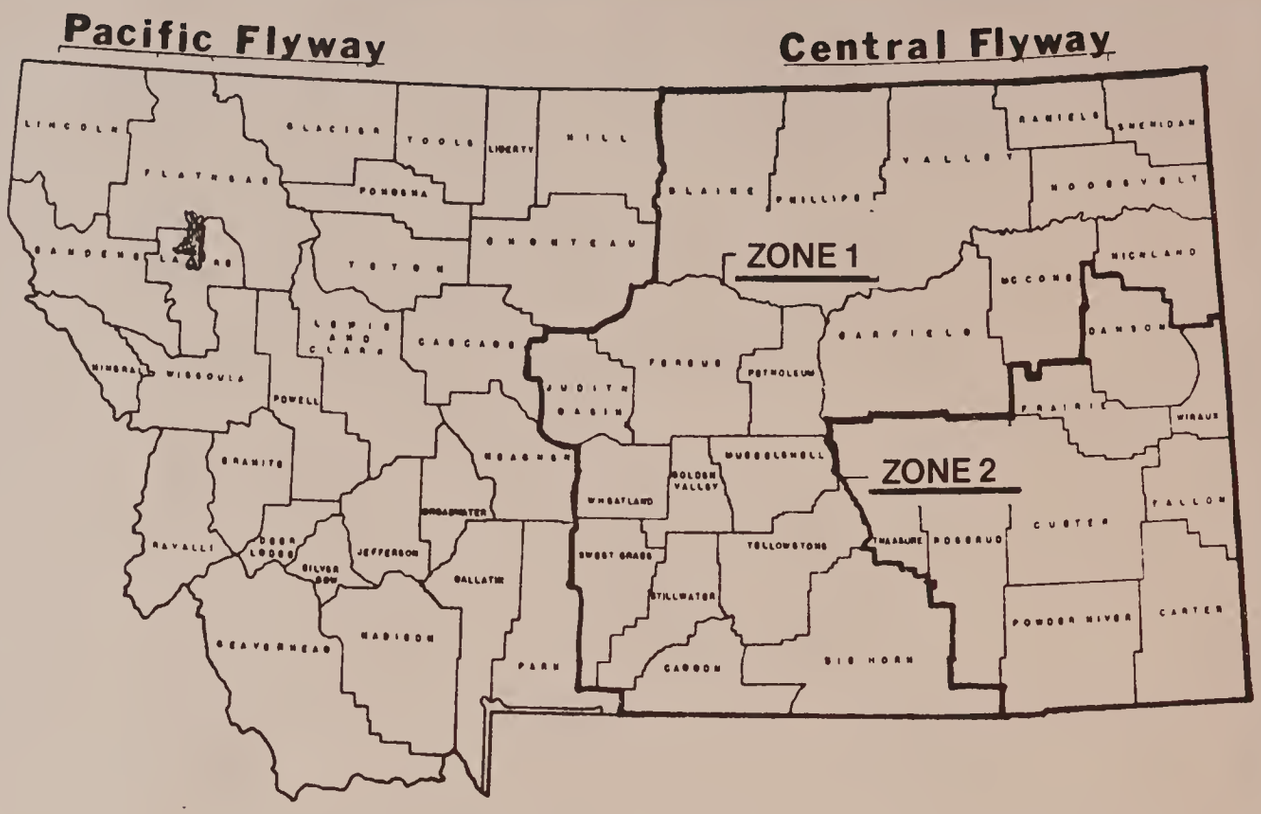
LICENSE AND MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

Licenses: Persons under 12 may not legally hunt game birds. Hunters must possess one of the following Montana licenses: Resident Sportsman's License, Resident Game Bird License; a Conservation License if holder is a Montana resident 62 years or older or between the ages of 12-14; Nonresident Game Bird License; or Nonresident Big Game, Bird and Fishing License. Each migratory bird hunter 16 years of age and over must carry on his person a valid Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp (Duck Stamp) and the Montana Waterfowl Stamp, signed in ink across the face. Persons under 16 years of age do not need to possess either the Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp or the Montana Waterfowl Stamp. Montana residents 62 years or older or holders of a Disabled Resident Conservation License need only a Conservation License and a Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp.

Consumption Advisory: To minimize consumption of potential pesticide residues in migratory birds, following are recommendations for cooking migratory birds. 1) Trim all fat and discard the skin and internal organs. These items should be discarded in a manner which will assure that they cannot be consumed by humans or domestic or wild animals. 2) Fully cook the skinned bird on a rack and discard the drippings in the same manner as fat, skin and organs. 3) Do not stuff birds. 4) Women who are pregnant or suspect they are pregnant and nursing women should not consume the named birds.

Notice: Whooping Cranes are protected by law. It is illegal to take or attempt to take this bird. If a Whooping Crane is sighted, please call toll-free 1-800-332-6117.

Caution: More restrictive regulations may apply to national wildlife refuges open to public hunting. For additional information on Federal regulations, contact Special Agent-in-Charge, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 25486, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225. Telephone: 303-234-4612.



CENTRAL FLYWAY — see closures

The Central Flyway includes Blaine, Fergus, Judith Basin, Wheatland, Sweet Grass, Stillwater and Carbon counties and all counties lying east of these.

• *DUCKS* •

Zone 1 October 4, 1986 - November 23, 1986
December 13, 1986 - December 28, 1986

Bighorn, Blaine, Carbon, Daniels, Fergus, Garfield, Golden Valley, Judith Basin, McCone, Musselshell, Petroleum, Phillips, Richland, Roosevelt, Sheridan, Stillwater, Sweetgrass, Valley, Wheatland and Yellowstone.

Zone 2 October 4, 1986 - October 12, 1986
November 1, 1986 - December 28, 1986

Carter, Custer, Dawson, Fallon, Powder River, Prairie, Rosebud, Treasure and Wibaux.

Bag Limits: The daily bag limit is reached when the point value of all ducks taken during the day reaches 100 points. A hunter may exceed 100 points on his last duck, provided his bag totaled less than 100 points before shooting the last duck. SEASON IS CLOSED ON CANVASBACKS.

The possession limit is the maximum number of ducks which may legally be taken in two days.

Green-Winged Teal	.20	Ringneck Duck	.35
Shoveler	.20	Pintail	.35
Gadwall	.20	Drake Mallard	.35
Blue-Winged Teal	.20	Redhead	.70
Cinnamon Teal	.20	Wood Duck	.70
Scaup	.20	Hooded Merganser	.70
Common & Red-Breasted Merganser	.20	Hen Mallard	.100
American Widgeon	.20	All others not listed	.35

• *COOTS* •

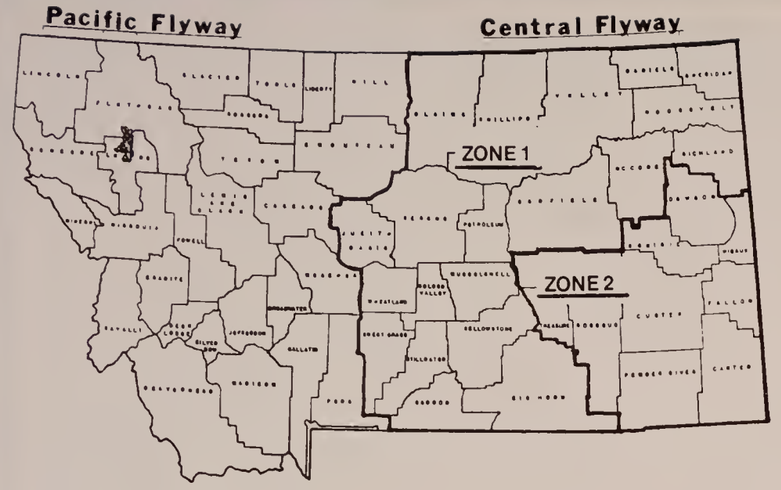
Bag Limit: Coots have a point value of 0, but the bag is limited to 15 daily and 30 in possession.

• *GEESE* •

Open Season: October 4, 1986 - January 4, 1987

Bag Limit: 3 daily and 6 in possession.

Exception: Sheridan County - 2 daily and 4 in possession.



CENTRAL FLYWAY — see closures

The Central Flyway includes Blaine, Fergus, Judith Basin, Wheatland, Sweet Grass, Stillwater and Carbon counties and all counties lying east of these.

• DUCKS •

Zone 1 October 4, 1986 - November 23, 1986
December 13, 1986 - December 28, 1986

Bighorn, Blaine, Carbon, Daniels, Fergus, Garfield, Golden Valley, Judith Basin, McCone, Musselshell, Petroleum, Phillips, Richland, Roosevelt, Sheridan, Stillwater, Sweetgrass, Valley, Wheatland and Yellowstone.

Zone 2 October 4, 1986 - October 12, 1986
November 1, 1986 - December 28, 1986

Carter, Custer, Dawson, Fallon, Powder River, Prairie, Rosebud, Treasure and Wibaux.

Bag Limits: The daily bag limit is reached when the point value of all ducks taken during the day reaches 100 points. A hunter may exceed 100 points on his last duck, provided his bag totaled less than 100 points before shooting the last duck. SEASON IS CLOSED ON CANVASBACKS.

The possession limit is the maximum number of ducks which may legally be taken in two days.

Green-Winged Teal	20	Ringneck Duck	35
Shoveler	20	Pintail	35
Gadwall	20	Drake Mallard	35
Blue-Winged Teal	20	Redhead	70
Cinnamon Teal	20	Wood Duck	70
Scaup	20	Hooded Merganser	70
Common & Red-Breasted Merganser	20	Hen Mallard	100
American Widgeon	20	All others not listed	35

• COOTS •

Bag Limit: Coots have a point value of 0, but the bag is limited to 15 daily and 30 in possession.

• GEESE •

Open Season: October 4, 1986 - January 4, 1987

Bag Limit: 3 daily and 6 in possession.

Exception: Sheridan County - 2 daily and 4 in possession.

• SANDHILL CRANE •

Open Season: October 4, 1986 - November 30, 1986.

Free permits available from the Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge; Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge; Fish, Wildlife, and Parks regional headquarters in Glasgow, Billings, Miles City, and the Fish, Wildlife and Parks office in Helena.

Exceptions: That area south and west of Interstate Highway 90 and the Bighorn River shall be closed to the hunting of Sandhill Crane.

Sheridan County shall be open November 1, 1986 - November 30, 1986.

Bag Limit: 3 daily and 6 in possession.

• COMMON (WILSON'S) SNIPE •

Open Season: October 4, 1986 - December 2, 1986

Bag Limit: 8 daily and 16 in possession.

• TUNDRA (WHISTLING) SWAN •

Open Season: October 4, 1986 - January 4, 1987

Hunting by special swan permit only. Inquire with the Helena Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks office after September 12 as to the availability of swan permits for the Central Flyway.

PACIFIC FLYWAY — see closures

The Pacific Flyway includes Hill, Chouteau, Cascade, Meagher and Park counties and all counties lying west of these.

• DUCKS •

Open Season: October 4, 1986 - December 21, 1986

Exception 1: Freezout Lake Wildlife Management Area and Benton Lake National Wildlife Refuge shall be open one-half hour before sunrise to 12 noon the opening weekend (October 4 and 5).

Exception 2: Canyon Ferry shall be open October 4 - November 7, 1986, one-half hour before sunrise to 12:00 noon and November 8, 1986 - December 21, 1986, one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. (See Area Description under Geese, Exception 2.)

Bag Limit: daily limit of 5 ducks and mergansers, and after opening day, a possession limit of 10 ducks and mergansers except that the daily bag may contain no more than 2 redheads, or 2 canvasbacks, or 1 of each; no more than 4 mallards but only 1 female mallard, 4 pintails but no more than 1 female pintail. The possession limit may not exceed twice the daily bag limit of any specie.

• MERGANSERS •

Mergansers are included in the daily bag and possession limits of ducks.

• COOTS •

Bag Limit: 25 daily and in possession.

• GEESE •

October 4, 1986 - January 4, 1987
(See Exceptions)

East of Continental Divide

Daily Limit: 3 white geese (Snow, Blue, Ross'), and 3 dark geese (all other geese).

Possession Limit: 6 geese total in any combination.

West of Continental Divide

Daily Limit: 3 white geese (Snow, Blue, Ross') and 2 dark geese (all other geese).

Possession Limit: 6 geese total of which no more than 2 may be dark geese.

EXCEPTIONS - PACIFIC FLYWAY (GEESE)

Exception 1, Freezout Lake Wildlife Management Area: Shall be open one-half hour before sunrise to 12:00 noon the opening weekend (October 4 and 5).

Exception 2, Canyon Ferry: Shall be open one-half hour before sunrise to 12:00 noon October 4, 1986 - November 7, 1986, in those portions of Broadwater, Lewis and Clark and Jefferson counties as follows: Beginning at Canyon Ferry Dam, then in a westerly and southerly direction along State Route 284 to U.S. Highway 287, then east along said highway approximately one-quarter (1/4) mile to the Jefferson-Broadwater County line, then southerly along said line to the S.W. corner of T7N, R1W, then easterly along the south boundary of said township to its intersection with Indian Creek, then easterly down said creek to its intersection with U.S. Highway 287, then southerly along said highway to its intersection with U.S. Highway 12, at Townsend, then easterly along said highway to Broadwater-Meagher County line, then northerly along said line to the head of Magpie Gulch, then southerly down said gulch to State Route 284, then westerly along said highway to Canyon Ferry Dam, the point of beginning.

Canyon Ferry: Shall be open one-half hour before sunrise to sunset November 8, 1986 - January 4, 1987 in the above described area.

Exception 3, Flathead: Shall be open one-half hour before sunrise to sunset October 4, 1986 - November 30, 1986, in portions of Flathead, Lake, and Sanders counties described as follows: Beginning at Ravalli, then north along U.S. Highway 93 to Polson and Elmo, then west on State Highway 28 to its intersection with State Highway 382 near Hot Springs and south along said highway to Perma, then east along State Route 200 to Ravalli, the point of beginning.

Exception 4, Deer Lodge County: Shall be open one-half hour before sunrise to sunset October 18, 1986 - January 4, 1987, in Deer Lodge County.

Exception 5, Benton Lake: (Dark Geese Only) Shall be open one-half hour before sunrise to sunset November 1, 1986 - January 4, 1987, in those portions of Cascade, Chouteau and Teton counties as follows: Beginning at Interstate 15 Interchange near Power, then due east on Teton County road 4 1/2 miles, then north 1 mile, then east 13 miles to State Highway 225 (Bootlegger Trail), then south 7 miles along Bootlegger Trail, then west 4 miles on Cascade County road, then north 1 mile, then west 8 miles, then north 1 mile, then west 3 miles, to the Gordon Interchange on Interstate 15, then north along Interstate 15 to the Power Interchange, the point of beginning.

Exception 6, Missoula County: (Closed to hunting of all geese): A tract of land comprising of portions of Sections 20, 21, 27, 28, 34, and 35, T13N, R18W, and Sections 1, 2, 11, and 12, T12N, R18W, more particularly bounded and described as follows: Beginning at the Montana Power dam at Milltown and extending in an easterly direction along the north shore of the impoundment to Interstate Highway 90, then in a southeasterly direction along Interstate Highway 90 to the Turah exit, then southeasterly across the Turah Bridge and along the frontage road to its junction with the Old Milwaukee Railroad right-of-way, then in a northwesterly direction along the railroad right-of-way to the Montana Power dam at Milltown, the point of beginning.

Exception 7, Kleinschmidt Lake: (Closed to Canada geese) That portion of Powell County lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at Helmville, then northerly along Route 271 to the intersection of State Highway 141, then northerly along State Highway 141 to the intersection of Highway 200, then northwesterly along Highway 200 to the Northfork of the Blackfoot River, then southwesterly along the North Fork of the Blackfoot River to the Ovando-Helmville county road, then southeasterly along the Ovando-Helmville road to Helmville, the point of beginning.

Note: Drawing will be conducted each morning to determine assignment of goose hunting pits at Ninepipes Game Management Area.

CLOSURES

By order of the Montana Fish and Game Commission, the following described areas shall be closed to hunting, harassment, or molesting of migratory waterfowl.

Region 1, Flathead County: Beginning where the west access road to the Flathead Lake Waterfowl Production Area enters said area in the SW1/4 of the SE1/4, Section 24, T27N, R21W approximately one-half mile east of the town of Somers, then E-NE along fence marking U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service property as posted to the west property line of the Dedman ownership in the W1/2 of Section 20, T27N, R20W, then south along said line fence as posted to the north shore of Flathead Lake, then south and westerly approximately 1 3/4 miles as posted to a large stump displaying a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ownership sign in the N1/2 of the N1/2 of Section 25, T27N, R32W, then northerly along west property line of said Waterfowl Production Area to the point of beginning. **(This Area is Also Closed to Hunting of Upland Game Birds.)**

Region 2, Warm Springs Pond No. 3 (Deer Lodge County): An area of land comprising portions of Sections 1, 2, 11 and 12 in Township 4 North, Range 10 West, portions of Sections 30 and 31 in Township 5 North, Range 9 West, and portions of Sections 25 and 36 in Township 5 North, Range 10 West, described as follows: Beginning at the junction of Interstate 90 and the Opportunity Road; then northerly on said road to the northerly base of the dike of Warm Springs Settling Pond No. 3; then northwesterly along the base of said dike to the area road passing through the Mill-Willow Bypass; then due west from junction of base of said dike and road to Interstate 90 (as posted); then southerly along said Interstate to its junction with the Opportunity Road, the point of beginning.

Region 3: **None**

Region 4, Freezout Game Management Area (Teton County): SW1/4, Section 19, Sections 29 and 30, T22N, R3W, W1/2 Section 12, W1/2 of E1/2 Section 12, and that portion of Sections 13 and 24 within the posted boundary of the Freezout Game Management Area, T22N, R4W. (This area will be open to upland game bird hunting until the opening of the waterfowl season; then it will be closed to all hunting.)

Helena Valley Regulating Reservoir (Lewis & Clark County): The Bureau of Reclamation Regulating Reservoir located in Section 8, T10N, R2W in the Helena Valley as posted. (This area will be open to upland game bird hunting until the opening of the waterfowl season; then it will be closed to all hunting.)

South Half of Lake Helena (Lewis & Clark County): Beginning at a point in the southwest part of Lake Helena to be marked by a red buoy, then in a southwesterly direction to the south shore, then south approximately 1/2 miles, then in an easterly direction 1 1/2 miles, then north 1/4 mile, then east 3/4 mile to the west bank of the BLM drain ditch D-7, then down the west bank of the drain ditch to the lake and out into the lake a distance of 400 yards to a point marked by a red buoy, then in a southwesterly direction across the lake to the point of beginning, in parts of Sections 23, 24, 25 and 26 in T11N, R3W, and in parts of Sections 19 and 30 in T11N, R2W.

Region 5: **None**

Region 6, Fresno Reservoir Area (Hill County): That portion of the Milk River and within 300 yards of its banks between the southeast corner of Section 1, T34N, R12E and the former Kremlin Crossing (Section 22, T34N, R13E).

McLean Reservoir (Hill County): Approximately 2,560 acres located in Sections 16, 17, 20, and 21, T36N, R15E.

Nelson Reservoir (Phillips County): All of those parts of Nelson Reservoir and its shoreline within the following described boundary: Beginning at a point where the line between sections 5 and 6, T31N, R32E, crosses the southern shoreline (as marked), then southerly along said line to U.S. Highway 2, then easterly along said highway to State secondary 243, then northerly along said road to the Northshore Cabin Road, then southwesterly along said road to the point where the Section 5 and 6 line (as above) intersects the northern shoreline of Nelson Reservoir (as marked).

North Chinook Reservoir (Blaine County): Approximately 2,215 acres located in the following sections and part sections of T35N, R18E: NE1/4, NW1/4, N1/2 SE1/4, N1/2, S1/2 SE1/4, portion of the SW1/4 Section 22; Section 23; Section 24; NE1/4, SE1/4, N1/2 NW1/4, portion of S1/2 NW1/4 Section 25; portion of the N1/2 NW1/4 Section 26.

Sands Lake (Hill County): SW1/4, Section 18, T32N, R16E.

Region 7, Treasure & Rosebud Counties: Beginning at the junction of the Bighorn and Yellowstone rivers, then east down the Yellowstone River to the Rosebud-Custer County line, east of Hathaway, Montana (as posted). This closure shall be within the confines of the normal stream flow and shall include all islands, backwaters, and sandbars.

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Montana Department of
Fish, Wildlife & Parks